

## Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 SCI-06 HEW-08 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /151 W

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R 190712 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0799

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2288

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, KS, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION  
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WHO

REF: CANBERRA 2161 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF SAW ASSISTANT SECRETARY COOK OD DEPT OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS APRIL 19 ON SUBJECT. COOK STATED GOA  
HAS DECIDED ABSTAIN IN VOTE ON NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION  
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WHO AT 26 TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY.  
HE ALSO STATED MINISTER HAS AGREED THAT GOA WOULD ABSTAIN  
ON ANY FURTHER RESOLUTION AT WHA IN THIS REGARD, I. E. IN  
CASE ADDITIONAL MOTION WITH REGARD TO NORTH KOREA IS  
INTRODUCED, GOA REP ALSO INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN. COOK  
STATED AUSTRALIAN POSITION IN IPU AT MEETING TO TAKE  
PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE SAME AS THAT IN WHA WITH  
REGARD TO NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION, THAT IS, TO ABSTAIN.  
COOK VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO  
COUNSELOR GONG AT SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA.  
HE NOTED THAT GONG ACCEPTED NEWS SILENTLY AND ASKED  
NO QUESTION ABOUT GOA'S RATIONALE.

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2. IN EXPLAINING GOA DECISION, COOK SAID THEY HAD ACCEPTED POINT THAT MATTER OF NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN UN ORGANIZATIONS HAD POLITICAL OVERTONES WHICH ARE BEST DISCUSSED IN UNGA RATHER THAN IN TECHNICAL BODIES. HE SAID GOA WAS LESS PERSUADED ABOUT OTHER ARGUMENTS USED BY SOUTH KOREA IN MAKING CASE AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF NORTH KOREA IN WHO. HE POINTED OUT THAT TOK ITSELF IS MEMBER OF TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE UN ITSELF.

3. IN AN ASIDE, COOK SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT TACTICAL ARGUMENT USED BY SOUTH KOREA IN PAST WOULD NOT STAND IN COURSE OF TIME. HE OPINED IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR SOUTH KOREANS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SEEKING SOME SORT OF ACCOMMODATION TO ALLOW SOME AMOUNT OF NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATION IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES. COOK STATED THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY AUSTRALIA WHICH SAW CHANGES COMING, SINCE THEY WERE SOMEWHAT BEHIND THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD. COOK SUMMED UP BY SAYING GOA HAD NO REASON TO WANT TO EMBARRASS SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT OR INDEED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANY UNDERCUTTING OF ITS STATUS IN THE WORLD. HE SAID AUSTRALIA HAS NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH IT COULD CASTIGATE AND THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO SINGLE OUT SOUTH KOREA.  
RICE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, KS, WHO  
**To:** IO  
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